

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name Taylor, Col. Richard P., House

other names/site number _____

2. Locationstreet & number State Road 1524

N/A not for publication

city, town Huntsboro☒ vicinitystate North Carolinacode NCcounty Granvillecode 077zip code 27565**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

6118

Noncontributing

2 buildings

sites

structures

objects

2 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville
County, North CarolinaNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

William S. Fin, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

1-29-88

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other wood

brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

Through a grove of oaks edged by a scattering of plantation and bright leaf era outbuildings, at the end of an unpaved lane, stands the Col. Richard P. Taylor House, the most striking, intact Federal/early Greek Revival style property in Granville County. Its front facade, still spanned in its entirety by a flush sheathed, pedimented gable, the exterior of the house is virtually unchanged since its construction, retaining its entablature-topped surrounds and Federal style, lunette-crowned, pediment window. Its interior finish is equally fine and intact, its Federal and early Greek Revival style mantels, stairs, doors and surrounds retaining much of their original marbleizing and wood-graining. Set graciously back from the road, the house's historical integrity is accented by its accompaniment of bright leaf era tobacco barns and by three earlier mortised and tenoned outbuildings, one perhaps originally an air cure tobacco barn, that appear to date from around the time of its construction.

Deftly finished woodwork adorns the main block of the two-story house and its one-story east wing. The nine-over-nine windows of both the three-bay wide and deep main block and the smaller wing are topped by ornate entablatures and protected by original or early shutters. Brick laid in Flemish bond forms the two rear chimneys of the main block, the gable end chimney of the wing and even most of the house's foundation; part of the wing's foundation is laid in common bond. The wing is said to have been built not long after the main block's construction, a suggestion born out by a finish nearly identical to that of the house. A one-story ell to the rear of the main block dates from the twentieth century. The originally detached, rectangular, gable roofed kitchen affixed to its rear, however, has a simple Greek Revival style finish - raised rectilinear surrounds, two-panel doors, plain post and lintel mantel - that indicates a mid-nineteenth century construction date.

The most exceptional feature of the exterior of the dwelling is not its entablature-topped windows, Flemish bond brickwork or flanking wing - features found at rare occasions at other homes of planters elsewhere in the county - but rather its pedimented gable front. This pediment, which tops the front facade, is filled with a triangle of flush laid boards. It is pierced at its center by a lunette-crowned window handsomely and ornately decorated with a projecting keystone and capitals, toothed moldings and delicate tracery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Inside, the house is finished with an intact mixture of Federal and early Greek Revival style motifs and arranged in a plan unique in the county. Designed like a side-hall plan rotated 90 degrees, the house has a hallway stretched across its front that holds an open run of stairs and that opens at its rear into two side by side rooms. (The rotated nature of the plan is apparent when compared with a virtually identical house built to the south at the same time for Col. Taylor's half-brother, Archibald; it displays a formally proper side-hall plan. The rigor of the plan shunted the potentially imposing pedimented gable of Archibald's house to the side elevation, perhaps explaining the rotation of the plan at Richard's house, which appears far more striking when approached from the road.) The Greek Revival informs the window and door surrounds, which are constructed of a variety of symmetrical posts and lintels and decorated cornerblocks. Five flat panels, slightly raised on the reverse, form the handsomely wood-grained doors, and early Greek Revival style motifs - hints of cornerblocks and slender columns - adorn the mantels of the two main downstairs rooms. Late Federal style mantels serve the wing room and the two upstairs rooms of the main block. The hallway is handsomely finished with scallop-end stairs and flush-sheathed wainscoting convincingly decorated with black, marbleized baseboards.

An early mortise and tenon smokehouse ["I" on attached sketch map], with some of its insulating infill of dirt remaining between its closely set studs and walls, stands to the rear of the house [H]. A more unusual outbuilding is the large two-story frame structure [G] raised upon a brick foundation standing to the house's front. In appearance similar to, if more substantial than, innumerable packhouses in the county - tobacco was indeed later stored in the structure - the building is said to have been a pigeon house in the nineteenth century. This function perhaps explains the wooden bars remaining at some of its windows and its finished interior, though if pigeons did roost there, their accommodations were superior to those of many of the county's human residents. A third pre-Civil War outbuilding is a large mortised and tenoned, weatherboarded building [E] standing in front of the house at the edge of the oak grove. Used during the bright leaf era as a packhouse, it may be one of the few surviving air cure tobacco barns in the county; it is quite similar in form and appearance to the putative air-cure barn standing at the Marcus Royster House, a mid-nineteenth century plantation seat standing in the northwestern part of the county.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Five later outbuildings stand from the bright leaf era, an early twentieth century contributing frame corn crib [F], two early twentieth century contributing log tobacco barns [A and B] and two frame tobacco barns [C and D] less than 25 years old that do not contribute to the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1830s-1937

Significant Dates

1830s

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The pedimented front facade of the transitional Federal/early Greek Revival style Col. Richard P. Taylor House is the most completely realized, intact Federal style exterior of any property in Granville County. The house's interior is one of the finest and most complete local examples of the early Greek Revival style, with additional late Federal style decorative features also still intact. Both interior and exterior combine to make the dwelling one of the most architecturally significant surviving from Granville County's plantation era. (See associated Property Types 1 - Georgian and Federal Style Dwellings - and 2 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) The deftly worked exterior - the entablature-topped surrounds, the Flemish bond rear and wing chimneys and foundation, the flush-sheathed triangular pediment and its ornate lunette-crowned window - retains its integrity and is exceptionally finished. Inside, the early Greek Revival style post and lintel mantels and surrounds downstairs and the late Federal mantels of the wing and upstairs rooms, coupled with the handsome wood-graining of the doors and marbleizing of the downstairs hall's baseboards, represent their styles at their most finely crafted and unaltered best. The significance of the dwelling, both architecturally and historically, is further marked by its plan. A side-hall rotated 90 degrees (see discussion in statement of description), the only use of the plan in that fashion in the county, it suggests local contacts with those areas where the side-hall plan was in fashion, the counties along the border to Granville's east and the distant, difficult to reach coastal plain of North Carolina. The relative opulence of the dwelling also suggests the way of life of a wealthy local planter before the Civil War and the maintenance of that way of life by large bright leaf growers after the conflict. (See associated Historic Contexts 1 and 2 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865, and Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937)

Col. Taylor's dwelling is further of particular historical significance during both the plantation and bright leaf eras when taken in its setting with its accompanying outbuildings. Graciously sited in a grove of oaks on property historically associated with it, the house retains three mortised and tenoned, pre-Civil War outbuildings - a smokehouse, a tall building said to have been a pigeon house during the nineteenth century and a large building that perhaps originally served as an air cure tobacco barn. The two latter buildings were used during the bright leaf era as packhouses; other contributing buildings from

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

that era include two log tobacco barns and a frame corn crib. The property has been in use as a traditional bright leaf tobacco farm within the past fifty years; its period of significance has been assigned a closing date of 1937, however, because it has not achieved exceptional significance within the past half century.

Robert Taylor (1777-1847), Col. Richard P. Taylor's father, owned the land upon which the house was built, having purchased 1248 acres of land in the area in 1819 from Elisha Battle [Deed Book Z, Page 21]. He was living in Oxford in 1840 according to the federal census of 1840, probably too old to have desired a new house, and the dwelling was built on his property for his son, Col. Richard Pelham Taylor (1812-1870). At the same time an almost identical house was built at the southern reach of his property for another son, Archibald, Richard's half-brother. In his will, Robert Taylor [Deed Book 17, Page 127, probated 1847] deeded the house to Richard in trust (the will indicates that Richard was a serious debtor) and the other house, outright, to Archibald. Although not as wealthy as his father, who divided 46 slaves among his heirs in his will, Richard did own 11 slaves at the taking of the 1850 census.

In 1896 Col. Taylor's heirs sold the estate to Joseph Benjamin Parham (1847-1897) and his wife, Emma Jane (Hunt) Parham (1850-1905) [Deed Book 49, Page 519]. It has remained in that family since, subsequently owned by the Parhams' son and daughter-in-law, George (1876-1915) and Addie (Floyd) Parham (1883-1958), and by their granddaughter, Fannie (Parham) Ward. It is now being renovated by, Fannie Ward's niece, Linda Parham.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Granville County Wills. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Interview with Davis Smith. August, 1986.

Interview with Linda Parham. April, 1987.

United States Manuscript Censuses. Microfilm located at Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 10 acres

UTM References

A 117 720940 4023970
Zone Easting Northing

C 117 720810 4023700

B 117 7208190 4023980
Zone Easting Northing

D 117 7209190 4023700

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Col. Richard P. Taylor House is the entire ten acre parcel owned by Frances P. Ward which is delineated in the accompanying 1964 survey map of the property of the heirs of George Y. Parham.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries which follow the property lines of Frances P. Ward as delineated on the accompanying 1964 survey map of the heirs of George Y. Parham, includes the house, outbuildings, and oak grove that have been a historic part of the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting. The property outside these boundaries has been excluded because it has been divided into several parcels owned by different family members and no longer retains the historic integrity of being a single farm.

☐ See continuation sheet

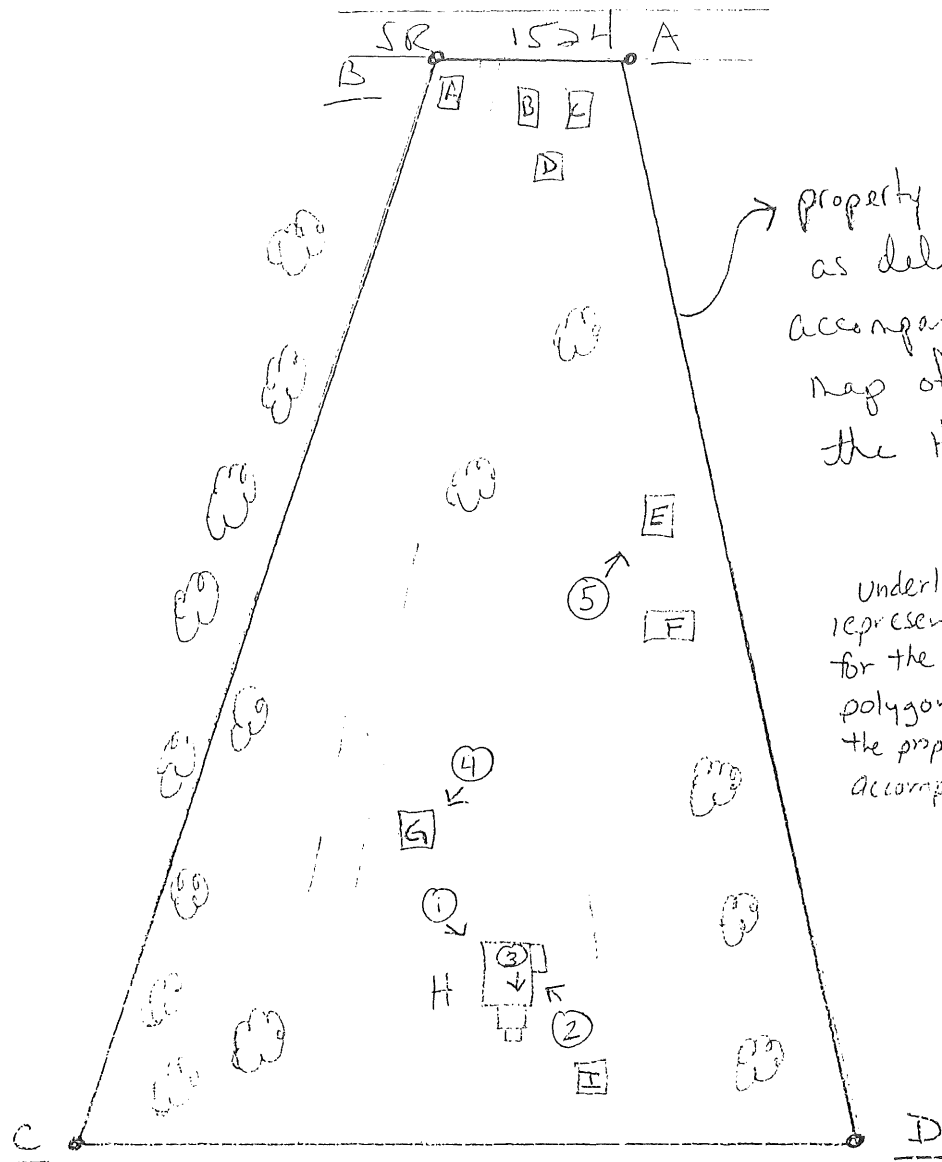
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian

organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 8/17/87

street & number P.O. Box 1556(State Historic Pres. Office) telephone 919-693-1491

city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565



Col. Richard P. Taylor House Granville County, NC

Approx. 10 acres

Approx. scale 1" = 200'

Contributing Buildings:

A + B - bright leaf era, log tobacco barns

E - plantation era, pegged, air cure(?) tobacco barn

G - plantation era, pegged, pigeon house(?)

H - House

I - plantation era pegged smokehouse

Contributing Structure:

F - bright era, frame corn crib

Contributing site:

oak grove

Non-Contributing buildings:

C + D - circa 1960s, frame + metal tobacco barns

drawn July, 1987, by Patricia Espelun



G: 78260
4024100
H: 718340
4024400
I: 718490
4024540

Col. Richard P. Taylor
House
Huntsboro vicinity
Greenville County,
N.C.

Quad: Oxford, N.C.
Scale: 1:24,000
Zone: 17

A: 720940
4022970

B: 720890
4023980

C: 720810
4023700

D: 720990
4023700

17'30"

4018

